

CLAIMS

1. A method for producing a vegetal plant extract by the steps of:
(A) treating a solid plant material with an extraction agent to obtain an extraction
5 liquid containing said extract dissolved in said extraction agent;
(B) separating said extraction liquid from said solid plant material; and
(C) concentrating said extraction liquid by at least partially removing said extrac-
tion agent to produce a concentrated extract;
wherein said step (C) of concentrating said extraction liquid is effected in the presence
10 of an effective amount of a pharmacologically acceptable an physiologically inert solu-
tion mediator so as to substantially avoid loss of constituents of said extract liquid upon
concentration thereof by an at least partial removal of said extraction agent, said solu-
tion mediator being poly(vinylpyrrolidone).
- 15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said extraction agent is a polar substance and
preferably a C₁₋₄ alkanol or a mixture of such alkanol with water.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said solution mediator is an organic
polymer capable of being colloidally dispersible or soluble in said extraction agent.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said organic polymer used as said solution
25 mediator has an average molecular mass of at least about 1000 Dalton units.
5. The method of any of claims 1 – 4 wherein said vegetal plant is *Cimicifuga*
racemosa.

6. An extract obtained by concentration of an extract fluid obtained by extracting of *Cimicifuga racemosa* with an extraction agent and concentration of said fluid extract in the presence of an effective amount of a solution mediator as defined in any of claims 1 – 5.

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7. Use of an extract as defined in claim 6 for production of a medicament capable of binding somatic as well as central nervous receptors so as to be suitable for treating climacteric and post menopausal distress.

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8. Use of an extract as defined in claim 6 for production of a medicament suitable as a substitute or complement of a hormone replacement therapy.

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9. A medicament capable of substituting or complementing hormone replacement therapy, said medicament consisting at least in part of an extract obtained by concentration of an extract fluid from *Cimicifuga racemosa* in the presence of an effective amount of a PVP as a solvent mediator.

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